

Message Text

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SUBJECT: THAI CULTURAL CENSORSHIP BOARD

1. ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY THE NATION, JUNE 15, REPORTED CABINET-LEVEL DECISION TO ESTABLISH 18-MEMBER CULTURAL CENSORSHIP COMMITTED TO "SUPERVISE AND CENSOR" ALL CULTURAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND THAILAND. CITING INFORMED SOURCES, THE NATION SAID PANEL IS BEING ESTABLISHED TO "PREVENT WHAT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS "CULTURAL INFILTRATION". THE NATION, WHICH OFTEN USED BY MFA TO LEAK INFORMATION, ONLY LOCAL PUBLICATION TO CARRY ITEM THUS FAR.
2. THE NATION RELATED ALLEGED ACTION TO SOVIET-PROPOSED CULTURAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENT CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION BY RTG. PAPER ALSO QUOTED INFORMED SOURCES AS SAYING ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A COMMITTEE NECESSARY "AS THAILAND IS OPENING TIES WITH MORE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE DIFFERENT IDEOLOGIES " THAN THAT OF THAILAND.
3. PAO WILL MEET MFA'S DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INFORMATION, PRACHA KUNAKASEM, MONDAY JUNE 23, FOR DISCUSSION ON BICENTENNIAL MATTERS AND WILL BRING UP THE CENSORSHIP COMMITTEE SUBJECT AT THAT TIME.

4. FOLLOWING TEXT THE NATION ARTICLE:

BEGIN TEXT

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CABINET LAST WEEK SET UP AN 18-MEMBER COMMITTEE TO

SUPERVISE AND CENSOR ALL CULTURAL EXCHANGES THAILAND WILL HAVE WITH ANY COUNTRY IN FUTURE TO PREVENT WHAT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS "CULTURAL INFILTRATION."

ONE INFORMED SOURCE SAID IT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE SUCH A COMMITTEE AS THAILAND IS OPENING TIES WITH MORE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE DIFFERENT IDEOLOGIES WITH THAT OF THAILAND.

THE COMMITTEE IS HEADED BY THE INFORMATION DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE INCLUDE "REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE EDUCATION MINISTRY, THE STATE UNIVERSITIES BUREAU, THE FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT, THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE PUBLIC WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION DEPARTMENT, THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT, THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, THE TREATY AND LEGAL DEPARTMENT, THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, THE TOURIST ORGANIZATION OF THAILAND AND THE SPORTS PROMOTION ORGANIZATION.

CULTURAL EXCHANGES, SUCH AS TV OR RADIO PROGRAMMES(CLASSICAL DANCING TROUPES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WILL BE CENSORED BY THE COMMITTEE TO WEED OUT CONTENTS THAT ARE CONSIDERED UNDESIRABLE OR DETRIMENTAL FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION, THE SOURCE SAID.

RUSSIA WILL BE THE FIRST COUNTRY WITH WHICH THAILAND WILL SIGN A CULTURAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENT THE SOURCE REPORTED.

RUSSIA IS EXAMINING A REVISED DRAFT AGREEMENT FROM THAILAND WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY DRAFTED BY RUSSIA ITSELF.

THAILAND FOUND THAT THE ORIGINAL DRAFT AGREEMENT DIFFERS FROM OTHER CULTURAL AGREEMENTS RUSSIA HAS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND THEREFORE THAILAND MADE SOME CHANGES IN IT, THE SOURCE EXPLAINED.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT RUSSIA WILL HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO THE CHANGES, THE SOURCE ADDED. END TEXT.

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